



# CALIFORNIA ORIGINALS

A Quarterly Newsletter of the California State Archives  
A Division of the Secretary of State's Office  
[www.sos.ca.gov/archives](http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives)

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## October is Archives Month

### CALIFORNIA ARCHIVES MONTH *Working to Preserve Our History*

VISIT

[WWW.CALARCHIVSMONTH.ORG](http://WWW.CALARCHIVSMONTH.ORG)

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
2013 CALIFORNIA ARCHIVES MONTH EVENTS

SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA ARCHIVISTS

[WWW.CALARCHIVISTS.ORG](http://WWW.CALARCHIVISTS.ORG)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

[WWW.ARCHIVES.GOV](http://WWW.ARCHIVES.GOV)

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD

[WWW.SOS.CA.GOV/ARCHIVES/CHAB](http://WWW.SOS.CA.GOV/ARCHIVES/CHAB)

CALIFORNIA STATE ARCHIVES, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

[WWW.SOS.CA.GOV/ARCHIVES](http://WWW.SOS.CA.GOV/ARCHIVES)

Archives Month recognizes archivists and archival repositories while raising public awareness of the value and importance of archival materials. This year the California State Archives is hosting three events.

Archives Month will kick off with an October 5 open house during the third annual Sacramento Archives Crawl. This all-day event with the theme "A Passion to Preserve" will be hosted by the State Archives and three other Sacramento repositories. Participants will be able to go on behind-the-scenes tours, view special exhibits, talk with archivists, and learn about other northern California archives and related institutions. For more information, visit [www.sacarchivescrawl.blogspot.com](http://www.sacarchivescrawl.blogspot.com)

Family History Day on October 12 will feature more than 20 free classes for people interested in learning how to begin researching their family tree. For more information, visit [www.fhdnews.blogspot.com](http://www.fhdnews.blogspot.com)

The Preservation Workshop on October 23 is for people who work in an archives-related field. State Archives staff will teach basic preservation techniques for repairing paper-based materials. For more information, visit [www.sos.ca.gov/archives/preservation](http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/preservation)

The 2013 California Archives Month poster features historic images of Californians at work and their involvement in the labor movement. Go to [www.calarchivesmonth.org](http://www.calarchivesmonth.org) to download the poster.

*By Stephanie Hamashin and Sebastian Nelson,  
Archivists and Archives Month Committee Members*

## From the State Archivist

As I reflect on Archives Month, I am proud the founders of our state had the wisdom to recognize that records are important and should be preserved. It is difficult to imagine that a number of states did not have official state archives until the 20th century and the National Archives was not established until 1934. California's early leaders had the foresight to recognize that the records of state government are essential to the public's knowledge of the State's business. The very first law enacted in California was entitled "An Act Concerning the Public Archives" (Chapter 1, Statutes of 1850). The law directs the Secretary of State to "safely keep and preserve" the records of the government in his office, providing the foundation for the State Archives and the preservation of essential records of state government. Archives Month recognizes not just the work of the State Archives and its knowledgeable, professional staff, but also the work of all who work to preserve historical records.

*Nancy Zimmerman Lenoil, State Archivist*

*"Preserving and Promoting the History of California"*

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## *Program Notes*

### **Preservation Program**

Preservation is an integral part of the California State Archives mission and plays a key role in caring for the collections housed in the archives. The primary goal of the preservation program is to ensure long-term use and appropriate storage of archival and manuscript materials. The preservation laboratory functions encompass both the preservation and conservation of archival material.

Preservation activities are designed to stabilize and protect documents against damage or deterioration. This includes monitoring the environmental conditions of the areas where collections are stored to ensure stable temperature and relative humidity. Preservation staff also maintain an integrated pest management program to protect collections from insects and other pests that would damage records. Other activities include building custom storage containers such as phase boxes and drop-spine boxes for at-risk materials; encapsulating fragile or high-use maps, documents, and photographs between polyester film; and maintaining a disaster response plan.

Conservation is the process of repairing damaged material using acceptable methods of repair. Conservation treatment uses materials and methods that are archivally sound and reversible. When mending paper documents, staff use a variety of Japanese papers and wheat starch paste. Other activities include cleaning, washing, deacidification of paper, and repair and rebinding of bound materials. Finally, preservation staff do all of the mounting, matting, and framing of archival material for display in the State Archives exhibit space, ensuring safe display for the duration of the exhibit.

*By the Preservation Staff*



**The State Archives Preservation Lab**

## *Meet the Staff*

### **Juan Ramos, Document Preservation Technician**

Juan Ramos began his state government career in 1985 with the California Department of Forestry (now called CalFire). He has been a Document Preservation Technician with the California State Archives since 1997. “We preserve and repair documents, maps, blueprints, and bound volumes stored within our facility for public research and exhibition. The work is both visual and tactile, requiring a great deal of patience,” said Juan. “My scholastic interest in history was always average. But in the course of physically preserving originals with my own hands, history has become very subjective to me.” An Air Force veteran, Juan used the GI Bill to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree from Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1980, majoring in theatre arts with a minor in art. In his spare time, Juan is an avid painter and sculptor. He and his soul mate, John Hancock (yes, that is his real name), create brightly painted paper maché sculptures that run the gamut from serene to crazy. “I like the dichotomy of preserving old paper for posterity versus grinding it up for aesthetics,” Juan explained. His theatre background has provided acting, directing and playwrighting opportunities in local community theatre and film.





## *Records in the Spotlight*

### **Labor-themed Records**

The 2013 California Archives Month poster focuses on labor, a subject of many records at the California State Archives.

The California Un-American Activities Committees investigated suspected communists and whether they wielded influence within state government and labor unions. The investigators believed there were communist influences in nearly every aspect of daily life: from agricultural boycotts and strikes to classroom lesson plans and activities; from infiltration of the government workforce to outright subversion by the academic profession. The records of the California Un-American Activities Committees cover the years 1935-1977.

The California Department of Industrial Relations record group contains documents related to the Division of Housing: Labor Camps and Substandard Housing. Series included are Labor Camp Reports (1940-1961); Hearings (1958-1960); and Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records (1957-1962). Also within the Industrial Relations Record Group are the records of the Commission of Immigration and Housing (1913-1926) and the Division of Labor Statistics and Research (1936-1957).

Details of regulation and licensing of various professions can be found in the records of the Commission for Teacher Preparation and Licensing, the Board of Medical Examiners, the Pharmacy Board, the Cosmetology Board, and the Board of Dental Examiners. Dates of these records vary.

Legislative records from key Senate and Assembly committees are available as well. The records include bill files for legislation, as well as transcripts from public hearings dealing with specific labor issues. These files are generally arranged first by legislative session and then by bill number. The years of the records vary, but are fairly complete beginning in the early 1990s.

Records of the California Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal provide information on judicial findings relative to many labor issues, such as discrimination and other unfair labor practices. The Supreme Court records date back to 1850, while the appellate court records date from 1904.

These are just some of the labor-related records held at the State Archives.

*By Linda Johnson, Archivist*

*Check [Minerva](#), our online catalog,  
as well as the [Online Archive of California](#)  
for descriptions of the Archives' records!*



## *Recently Processed Records*

### **State Agency Records**

Youth and Adult Correctional Agency

### **State Legislature Records**

Gerald Felando Papers

Virginia Strom-Martin Papers

Quentin Kopp Papers

Norman Waters Papers





## *Staff Favorites*

### **The Great Seal of California in Stained Glass**

Among the many historic treasures in the State Archives is a rare glass replica of California's state seal. Emblazoned with colorful enamels and measuring about 20 inches in diameter, the glass seal originally formed part of the ceiling decoration of the House of Representatives chamber in the United States Capitol. It was manufactured in 1857 along with many other state seals by brothers John and George Gibson, stained glass makers from Philadelphia. The seals were based on drawings prepared by the noted artist Johannes Oertel and on descriptions provided by Montgomery Meigs, the Capitol's engineer-in-charge. Meigs obtained a description of California's seal after writing a letter to California Secretary of State David Douglass on March 19, 1857.

The Great Seal of California hung in an enormous iron skylight along with the other state seals for more than 90 years. In 1949, the U.S. Capitol was renovated and the old skylight was removed, to the disdain of some. One newspaper quoted Congressman Karl Stefan of Nebraska saying, "What? Do away with the seals, streamline the chamber, put in neon lights, and make it look like a night club?"

The seals were eventually given to the states in accordance with Public Law 731 of the 81st Congress. California Secretary of State Frank Jordan received California's beautiful glass seal in 1951.

*By Sebastian Nelson, Archivist,  
with special thanks to Jean Farnsworth, Stained Glass Historian*





## *New Exhibit Opens*

### **Signs of the Times: California Businesses and Trademark Art**

The California State Archives' new exhibit, *Signs of the Times: California Businesses and Trademark Art*, celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the California's Trademark Registration Act. A trademark is a word, phrase, symbol, or design, or a combination of words, phrases, symbols, or designs, that identifies and distinguishes the source of the goods of one party from those of others. California began registering certain trademarks for bottled products in 1861, then trademark registration for all types of products began in 1863 (seven years prior to any federal legislation). California was the first state in the Union to allow trademark registration, and today those doing business in California still register their trademarks with the Secretary of State. The State Archives preserves trademarks as part of the records of the Secretary of State's office. Trademark applications or claims contain the filing date, a trademark specimen (usually a label or sketch), a written description, and the names of the company and applicant. The focus of this exhibit is on 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century trademarks that were works of art as well as functions of advertising. The exhibit features colorful fruit crate labels, clever cigar box labels, and trademarks depicting California state symbols such as grizzly bears, gold miners, and the Great Seal. Other items on exhibit include examples of early trademarks, court cases that further defined trademark law, trademarks of patent medicines and remedies from before and after the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, and trademarks used by famous beverage and sweets companies. By viewing trademark records of products sold and consumed in California, people may catch a glimpse of life in the Golden State as it was in times past. The exhibit is on display in the Archives 4<sup>th</sup> floor gallery.

*By Melissa Tyler, Archivist and Exhibit Coordinator*

### **Signs of the Times** *California Businesses and Trademark Art*



An Exhibit Celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
California's Trademark Registration Act.

**California State Archives**

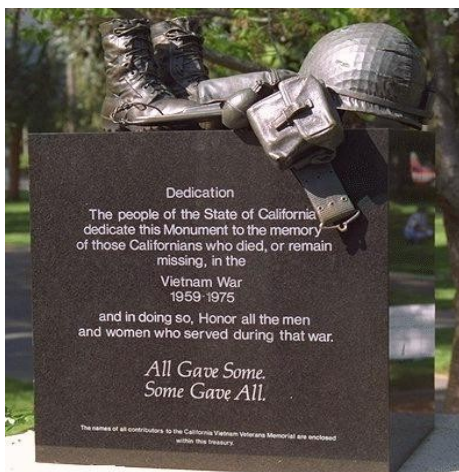
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Gallery**

**Open 9:30 AM-4:00 PM**

**Free Admission**



## Coming Soon



### Vietnam Veterans Memorial

In honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the State Archives will display some of the more than 1,500 items that have been left at the memorial since 1988. Check [www.sos.ca.gov/archives/exhibits](http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/exhibits) in November for more information about this temporary exhibit at the State Archives in Sacramento.

## Upcoming Events

October 5	Sacramento Archives Crawl	<a href="http://www.sacarchivescrawl.blogspot.com">www.sacarchivescrawl.blogspot.com</a>
October 12	Family History Day	<a href="http://www.fhdnews.blogspot.com">www.fhdnews.blogspot.com</a>
October 23	Preservation Workshop	<a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/preservation">www.sos.ca.gov/archives/preservation</a>
October 25	Monthly Public Tour of the California State Archives	<a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/tour.htm">www.sos.ca.gov/archives/tour.htm</a>
October 25	California Council for History Education Conference	<a href="http://www.cce.csus.edu/conferences/cche/cchec/index.cfm">www.cce.csus.edu/conferences/cche/cchec/index.cfm</a>
December 7	History Day How-to 2.0 - A National History Day Workshop	Email <a href="mailto:ArchivesEvents@sos.ca.gov">ArchivesEvents@sos.ca.gov</a>

**California State Archives**  
1020 O Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Visit us on the web at [www.sos.ca.gov/archives](http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives)

For general assistance, call (916) 653-7715

For reference assistance, call (916) 653-2246  
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For event information, call (916) 653-7715  
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For the California Museum visit  
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